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Attorney Docket No. 2004P00501WOUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Peter Bauer et al
 Application Number: Unassigned
 Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith
 Group Art Unit:
 Examiner:
 Title: REFRIGERATION DEVICE COMPRISING TWO STORAGE
 COMPARTMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

DE 33 14 056 discloses a deep-freeze, with a refrigerator and a heat-insulated housing, in which an evaporator system connected continuously by refrigerant ducts is divided into at least two sections, which are associated with thermally separated, preferably separately closable divisions (13,14) of the housing (11), and of which at least one is wholly or partially provided with an arbitrarily controllable bypass duct (24).

JP2003-329353 discloses that this refrigerator has: a refrigeration cycle comprising a compressor 6, a cooler 11 or the like; the changeover chamber 3 wherein the set temperature is changeable from the freeze temperature to the temperature of the refrigerating chamber 1, in addition to the refrigerating chamber 1, a freezing chamber 4 or the like; and a blower 18 or the like forcibly blowing cold air generated by the cooler 11 into the changeover chamber 3 or the like. An opening/closing damper 20 is provided in a cold air passage to the changeover chamber 3. When set to a temperature from the freeze temperature to the temperature of the refrigerating chamber 1 after completion of the heat removal, the opening/closing damper 20 is set to 'open', and the compressor 6 is operated for a prescribed time at an operation

frequency selected according to a difference of a peripheral temperature of the refrigerator different in a season or the like.

EP 0 192 526 discloses a refrigerating cabinet comprising three superposed compartments (1, 2 and 3), which are thermally insulated from each other and are each cooled by an evaporator (10, 20 and 30) with a first compartment ensuring the freezing and preservation of products, at least one (2) of the second and third compartments indifferently ensuring the three functions of chilling, refrigeration and preservation and the other compartment (1) indifferently ensuring the functions of chilling and refrigeration, the compartment (2) ensuring the three functions of chilling, refrigeration and preservation being connected with an independent refrigerating circuit comprising an evaporator (20) and a motor-compressor (21), whereas the evaporators (10 and 30) of the first compartment and of the compartment ensuring the functions of chilling and refrigeration are connected with another motor-compressor (40) common to the two compartments, each compartment comprising a circuit for temperature regulation with a thermostat situated in the said compartment, the thermostat (T2) situated in the interior of the compartment ensuring the three functions being a thermostat having two stages, one of them corresponding to the chilling temperatures, and the other to refrigeration temperatures and being connected with the compressor (21) in order to start the compressor (21) and the supply of the associated evaporator (20) situated in the said compartment, when this compartment is used as a chilling compartment or a refrigeration compartment and when the temperature in the interior of the said compartment rises above the desired temperature of chilling the temperature of refrigeration and the thermostat (T3) situated in the freezing compartment and the preserving compartment being connected with the compressor (21) of the compartment with three functions in order to start the compressor (21) when the said compartment is used as a preserving compartment and the temperature in the interior of the freezing and preserving compartment rise above the desired preserving temperature, characterized in that the thermostat (T2) situated in the compartment with three functions comprises a contact (T21) to close the electric supply circuit of the associated compressor (21), when the temperature in the interior of the said compartment rises above the chilling temperature or the refrigerating temperature, in that the compartment is used with a chilling or refrigerating function and in that a contact (13), only closed when the said compartment is used with the preserving function, is placed between the said compressor (21) and another contact (T31) associated

with the thermostat (T3) of the freezing and preserving compartment this latter contact (T31) closing when the temperature in the interior of the freezing and preserving compartment rises above the preserving temperature and thus causing the starting of the compressor (21) associated with the compartment having three functions.

DE 100 61 778 discloses that the device is modular, consisting of reversibly inter connectable floor, side, door and roof elements (2-6) with a cooling device integrated into at least one of the elements. The elements of the device have connecting elements (8,10,11) on their edges for reversibly connection to connecting elements on connected device elements.

JP2002-62028 discloses that the refrigerator comprises a refrigerating machine unit 2 where a compressor 22, a condenser 23, a heat discharger 24 and an evaporator 25 are disposed in a housing 21, and a food containing compartment 1 comprising a housing 11 opening upward wherein the refrigerating machine unit is fixed removably onto the food containing compartment. Among apparatus 22, 24 and 25 constituting the refrigerating machine unit 2, the evaporator 25 is disposed at the lowermost part and chill can be supplied into the housing 11 from the evaporator.

DE 197 56 860 discloses that the refrigerator has at least two injection points at evaporator to generate lower temperature spaced apart in flow direction. A refrigerator has a heat-insulating housing inside which at least two thermally separated cooling compartments of different temperatures are located. Of these, each is cooled by an evaporator equipped with corresponding cooling power. The evaporators serving for cooling the compartments are located together in a coolant circuit in series, one behind the other, and are subjected to coolant from a compressor found in the circuit. At the evaporator (18), at least two injection points (20,21) are provided to generate the lower temperature, spaced apart in the flow direction and incorporating between them a section of the coolant channel arrangement (19,37) of the evaporator. In front of each of the injection points on the admission side is connected a throttle and each of the injection points can be controlled selectively by a changeover device (24,42).

Attorney Docket No. 2004P00501WOUS

DE 195 35 144 discloses the freezer (10) has 2 separate storage compartments (12,13) with different capacities within a common thermally-insulated housing (11), provided with respective evaporators (21,26) which are connected in series. The evaporator (26) for the storage compartment with the greater capacity can be disconnected from the refrigeration circuit via a blocking valve (25) in the coupling line (24) between the evaporators, for acting as a reservoir for the refrigeration medium when the other compartment is operated in a fast-freeze mode.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



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2004P00501WOUS

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